

Tipiṭaka at John Rylands Library

by

Kit Johnstone, Ph.D.

A set of *Tipiṭaka* was given to the University of Manchester in 1898 by *Rāma* V of *Sīam*. They were published in 1888 in *Bangkok* for the silver jubilee of his reign in 1894. The complete set comprises 39 volumes, and is divided into three main sections, namely *Vinayapiṭaka* (1–8), *Suttantapiṭaka* (9–28), and *Abhidhammapiṭaka* (29–39). In 2009 when I found them there were 38 volumes in total remaining, and the one volume missing was Volume 15. From the introduction the set were published in hundreds, not in thousands. I try to put them into the computer in Roman alphabet. The process is slow because I am doing it manually on my own.

Titles according to my plan are the following, the numbers within brackets being volume numbers of the manuscript:

Aṅguttaranikāya (20–24), *Bhikkhunīvibhaṅga* (3), *Cūlaniddesa* (27), *Cullavagga* (6–7), *Dhammasaṅgaṇi* (29), *Dīghanikāya* (9–11), *Dhammapada* (25), *Dhātukathā* (31), *Itivuttaka* (25), *Kathāvatthu* (32), *Khuddakapāṭha* (25), *Mahāniddesa* (26), *Mahāvagga* (4–5), *Mahāvibhaṅga* (1–2), *Majjhimanikāya* (12–14), *Parivāra* (8), *Paṭisambhidāmagga* (28), *Paṭṭhāna* (36–39), *Samyuttanikāya* (15–19), *Suttanipāta* (25), *Udāna* (25), *Vibhaṅga* (30) and *Yamaka* (33–35).

Attached to the inside of the front cover of the first volume is a dedication in *Pāli* which reads,

Idaṃ Tepiṭakam.

*Dakkhiṇabuddhamāmakānaṃ sammābhimānanālipīnaṃ lañchanaṃ rañṇāparamin-
da mahācūlālanikaraṇena syāmekarājabhūtena pañcaviṣatīyā saṃvaccharānaṃ pa-
ripunṇānamaccaye pākāṭaṃ katvā muddāpitaṃ, imasmiṃca kāraṇe.*

Mahāvidyālayassa anussaranīyaṃ dinnam.

M’haṇḍyalaī Manchester.

From the introduction we have the full, official name of *Rāma* V,

*Braḥṇasomdec
Braprindrm’ha-Culalongkaurṇi
Bḍindaurdebyām’hamongkuḍ
Buruṣyāratnrājrvivongṣ
Vrutmbongṣbribatr
Vaurkhatiyārajnikrōdom
Caturantbromm’haçakrbarrāḍirajsangkaś
Bromdharmikm’harajadhiraḍ
Bromnārthḥbitr
Bra-Culcaumklaòcaòyūhōa.*

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